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Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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SECDEF FOR ODDR&E-IP (MR. BASIL)

E.O. 11652: GDS
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SUBJ: DPC MINISTERIAL - REPORT ON STANDARDIZATION

REF: A. STATE 255871; B. AC/259-DS/14(FINAL), 6 NOV 74

BEGIN SUMMARY. REPORT ON STANDARDIZATION TO THE DPC MINISTERIAL IS STILL IN DRAFT STAGE. AREAS OF COMMENT EXPECTED BY DR. TUCKER INCLUDE AIRBORNE EARLY WARNING, ELECTRONIC WARFARE, SMALL ARMS AND AMMUNITION, INTEROPERABILITY OF COMMUNICATIONS, AND A NEW ANTI-SHIP MISSILE. HE MAY MENTION NATO F-104 REPLACEMENT PROGRAM AND NAVAL SHIP PASSIVE LINK DISPLAY EQUIPMENT. MSG PROVIDES BRIEF MISSION COMMENT ON EACH ITEM. END SUMMARY.

1. MISSION HAS DETERMINED, IN RESPONSE TO WASHINGTON REQUEST (REF A) THAT NATO INTERNATIONAL STAFF IS NOW DRAFTING DPC MINISTERIAL REPORT ON STANDARDIZATION. INITIAL DRAFTING OFFICER INDICATES THAT REPORT, WHICH ASST SEC GEN FOR DEFENCE SUPPORT (DR. TUCKER) HAS IN HAND AT THIS TIME, WILL DRAW ON DECISIONS MADE AT THE MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE OF NATIONAL ARMAMENTS DIRECTORS (CNAD), 29-30 OCT 74 (REF B). AT THE CNAD THE CONFIDENTIAL

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NATIONAL ARMAMENTS DIRECTORS (NADS) INVITED THE CNAD CHAIRMAN (DR. TUCKER) TO REPORT TO MINISTERS IN DEC 74 PROGRESSS IN AREAS OF AIRBORNE EARLY WARNING, ELECTRONIC WARFARE, AND STANDARDIZATION OF NEW RIFLE, LIGHT AND MEDIUM INFANTRY WEAPONS, AND

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THEIR AMMUNITION, AND INTRODUCE INTEROPERABILITY OF COMMUNI-
CATION EQUIPMENTAS A NEW AND URGENT AREA OF CONCERN. IN ADDITION,
THE DPC REPORT ON STANDARDIZATION WILL HIGHLIGHT THE STAN-
DARDIZATION POTENTIAL OF THE NATO NAVAL ARMAMENTS GROUP
PROGRAM TO DEVELOP A NATO SECOND GENERATION ANTI-SHIP MISSILE
AND WILL TOUCH BRIEFLY ON THE F-104G REPLACEMENT.

2. MISSION WILL TRANSMIT REPORT TO WASHINGTON WHEN WE RECEIVE IT.

3. MISSON COMMENT:
A. AIRBORNE EARLY WARNING (AEW). US NATIONAL ARMAMENTS
DIRECTOR (DR CURRIE) SUGGESTED AT THE OCT 74 CNAD THAT THE
CONFERENCE APPOINT A HIGH-LEVEL GROUP CONSISTING OF PERSONAL
REPS OF THE NADS UNDER THE INTIAL LEADERSHIP OF THE FRG TO
EXAMINE THE FOLLOWING ASPECTS OF AN AEW PROGRAM: FUNDING,
MANAGEMENT, CO-PRODUCTION, OWNERSHIP, BASING, CONTINUING
OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, FURTHER MODIFICATIONS AND IMPROVEMENT.
THE OBJECTIVE OF THIS GROUP IS TO HELP THE ALLIES PREPARE FOR
MINISTERIAL CONSIDERATION OF THE ABOVE ISSUES BY SPRING 1975.
HIGH-LEVEL URGING IS ESSENTIAL TO KEEP THIS EFFORT ON TRACK TO
ALLOW ADEQUATE TIME FOR DECISION MAKING, BOTH WITHING NATO
AND FOR THE US AWACS PROGRAM.
B. ELECTRONIC WARFARE. IN MISSION VIEW PROGRESS IN IMPLE-
MENTING IDENTIFIED AND RGENTLY NEEDED IMPROVEMENTS IN SEA,
LAND, AND AIR FORCES IN THE NEAR TERM IS DISAPPOINTING.
BUDGETARY CONSTRAINTS REMAIN THE PRIMARY OBSTACLE TO MORE
RAPID MODERNIZATION IN THIS CRITICAL AREA. IN THIS REGARD
SECDEF COULD EMPHASIZE THE OBVIOUS COST-EFFECTIVENESS OF PRO-
VIDING AT LEAST SELF-PROTECTION TO AIRCRAFT AND SHIPS AND
ILLUMINATION-WARNING DEVICES (INFRA-RED, RADAR, AND LASER) FOR
ARMORED VEHICLES AND ASSOCIATED GROUND FORCES.
C. STANDARDIZATION OF NEW RIFLE, LIGHT AND MEDIUM INFANTRY
SUPPORT WEAPONS AND THEIR AMMUNITION. THE CNAD MADE NOTABLE
PROGRESS IN THIS IMPORTANT AREA AT ITS OCT 74 MEETING. PAST
EXPERIENCE, HOWEVER, HAS PROVEN THAT AGREED PROGRAMS CAN
EITHER GET OFF COURSE OR BOG DOWN AT LOWER LEVELS OF INTERFACE
BETWEEN NATIONS. MINISTERIAL ATTENTION TO KEEPING THE PRO-
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GRAM MOVING ON THE AGREED SCHEDLE IS IMPORTANT.
D. INTEROPERABILITY OF COMMUNICATION EQUIPMENT. AT THE
OCT 74 CNAD US REP EXPRESSED VIEW THAT ADDRESSING THE PROBLEM
OF INTEROPERABILITY AND SECURE COMMUNICATIONS AND DATA LINKS
IS OF PARAMOUNT IMPORTANCE AND THAT SOLUTION OF THE PROBLEM IS
ESSENTIAL IF THE FORCES OF THE ALLIANCE ARE TO COOPERATE
EFFECTIVELY IN TIMES OF TENSION OR WAR. MISSION FULLY SUPPORTS
THIS ASSESSMENT.
E. NATO SECOND GENERAL ANTI-SHIP MISSILE. NATO NAVAL
ARMAMENTS GROUP (NNAG) CONSIDERS STANDARDIZATION POTENTIAL
IN THIS AREA TO BE HIGH SINCE NATIONS ARE NOT TOO FAR DOWN STREAM
IN THE DEVELOPMENT PROCESS TO PRECLUDE COOPERATION LEADING
TO A STANDARDIZED NATO SYSTEM. NNAG IS INVESTIGATING A MODULAR

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DESIGN APPROACH WHICH WILL ALLOW NATIONS TO ATTAIN DESIRED DEGREES OF PERFORMANCE CONSISTENT WITH SIZE AND MISSION OF LAUNCH PLATFORM. THIS CONCEPT APPEARS SOUND AT THIS POINT. CNAD HAS REQUESTED THE NATO INDUSTRIAL ADVISORY GROUP (NIAG) TO CONDUCT A PREFEASIBILITY STUDY. IN VIEW OF THE URGENCY OF THE REQUEST THE NIAG CHAIRMAN (COL LACY) HAS CALLED A PRELIMINARY MEETING OF INDUSTRIALISTS FOR DEC 17-18 AT NATO HQ TO CONSIDER THE REQUEST. THIS QUICK REACTION REFLECTS THE ENTHUSIASM OF CNAD, NNAG AND NIAG FOR THE PROGRAM AND BODES WELL FOR EVENTUAL SUCCESS OF THE EFFORT. SUPPORT BY THE US AT DPC MINISTERIAL COULD DO MUCH TO MAINTAIN CURRENT PROGRAM MOMENTUM.

F. REPLACEMENT FOR NATO F-104G AIRCRAFT. UNDER PRESENT PLANS, DR. TUCKER PROBABLY WILL COMMENT BRIEFLY ON THIS PROGRAM, BUT WILL LEAVE THE LARGER PRESENTATION TO THE EUROGROUP SPOKESMAN, SHOULD SUCH A PRESENTATION MATERIALIZE. IN MISSION VIEW, US COMMENT ON THIS SENSITIVE ISSUE IS NOT REQUIRED.

G. PASSIVE LINK DISPLAY EQUIPMENT (PLDE). US AND CANADA CONTINUE TO EXPRESS WILLINGNESS TO COOPERATE ON PLDE BUT US REQUIRES AT LEAST ONEOTHER NATION TO PARTICIPATE IN THE PROGRAM. NORWAY MAY DECIDE TO JOIN US AND CANADA. EVEN IF SUCH A TRI-LATERAL EFFORT SHOULD EMERGE, RESULTING SYSTEM PROBABLY WOULD NOT BE ACCEPTABLE TO FRG WHICH PLANS TO DEVELOP SYSTEM FOR INTORDUCTION SOONER THAN POSSIBLE THROUGH MULTILATERAL EFFORT WITHIN NATO. NORWAY AND DENMARK NEED A SMALL, CHEAP SYSTEM AND DOUBT THAT TRILATERAL GROUP PRODUCT WOULD MEET THIER NEEDS. PLDE PROGRAM DISCUSSED IN DPC REPORT ON STANDARDIZATION IS ANOTHER EXAMPLE WHERE WE SHOULD HAVE STARTED SOONER TO PERMIT SOLUTION OF SCHEDULING AND SIZE PROBLEMS FOR CONFIDENTIAL

CONCERNED NATIONS. PLDE IS PROBABLY A NON-STARTER. MCAULIFFE

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